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## Supreme Court Rules on Specialty License Plate Design

The Supreme Court has [ruled](#) in a 5-4 decision that a Texas specialty license plate design constitutes government speech, and thus Texas was entitled to refuse to issue plates featuring the Sons of Confederate Veterans proposed license plate design. That design drew controversy for its inclusion of the Confederate battle flag. The ruling held that when government speaks, it is not barred by the Free Speech Clause from determining the content of what it says. The Supreme Court cited that "history shows that States, including Texas, have long used license plates to convey government speech, e.g. slogans urging action, promoting tourism, and touting local industries." The ruling went on to say "Texas license plate designs are often closely identified in the public mind with the State."

For this, and a listing of other judicial decisions of consequence, visit the judicial section of AAMVA's [Government Affairs](#) web site.

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